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HAVERFORD REVIVED.

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Engraved by J. Varley

Harvard School

Founded 1853

# HAVERFORD REVIVED:

BEING

AN ADDRESS

ON THE

HISTORY

OF THE

HAVERFORD LOGANIAN SOCIETY.

READ BEFORE A MEETING OF THE SOCIETY, NINTH MONTH, 13th, 1848.

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BY AN HONORARY MEMBER.

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PHILADELPHIA:

KING & BAIRD, PRINTERS, 9 GEORGE STREET.

1848.

At a meeting of the Haverford Loganian Society, held 9th mo., 13th, 1848, it was

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Henry Hartshorne for his able and interesting address, and that Joseph W. Aldrich, George Brinton, and James C. Thomas be appointed a committee to request of the Author a copy for circulation.

J. C. THOMAS, *Secretary*.

## ADDRESS.

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FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE HAVERFORD LOGANIAN SOCIETY :

It seems but a short lapse of time, nine years, since within these walls I found a home,—a little world : but of what moment have been the occurrences of those years ! In this place were others then, whom I see not now ; or if any are here, they are changed : few things are as they were. The occasion of my being with you to-day has thus for me an interest as deep as that of life.

I dream of things long past,—almost forgot ;  
Of days when free, full, natural hearts were ours ;  
Of those now parted, comrades in a spot  
Where young Hope once, now Memory, plants flowers.  
Oh Time, thou robber ! 'tis a different world !  
The very skies seem changed, more dimly starred ;  
High fancies from their vision-thrones are hurled,  
And all our airy Edens serpent-marred.  
Wo, thus to think on bright hours that have been,  
But for the thought that such may be again !  
Such, and far brighter ; for we feel within  
The Soul dies not in which such joys could reign ;  
*Heaven's bounty grows not old.*

In the history of the body of which you are now the active constituents, a former member must find a rich harvest of association. It seemed at first sight, as though the subject were an easy one ; but I have changed the opinion. If you are content with a brief outline from its records of its beginning, weekly proceedings, suspension and restoration, the task may be accomplished ; and this is all that I can attempt. But, the history of the Loganian Society ! should it not, as all history should, be a record of the *internal* life, of the individual components, the aims, efforts, motives and progress of those who on this spot made up the moral and mental



whole of the Society? An aggregate biography? I can imagine, can think out such a scheme, but cannot attempt its performance. It would be the history of boyhood with all its impulses, as many and as changing as the winds that blow, or the stars that shine; of youth, with its steadier and stronger aspirations, tempered by the presence of a few venerable heads, whose hearts were yet perhaps as warm as the youngest. It would be a history of the world in a nutshell! We must leave it yet unwritten.

We should, however, in tracing the chronicles of the Society as a unit, look back beyond its origin to that of the Institution in and from which it had its life. This subject is a familiar one to us all.

The Society of Friends, in its commencement, was not a company of learned men. It was called out from the multitude on the ground of no scholastic dogma, nor on that of rank, nor caste, nor circumstance. One high prerogative of its mission was to lay low the pride of human learning, by showing that gifts almost Apostolic were conferred on men as unlettered sometimes as the fishermen of old. They had their learned and their nobly born; but the number of finished scholars among them was small. They maintained a separation of themselves and their children from the life and manners of the world; and were thus shut out from the great fountains of literature and science, the colleges and universities.

As the Society prospered, however, and felt itself growing and independent even in temporal affairs, the value of enlarged information and mental developement began to be not only appreciated, but cared for actively. In England, exclusive schools upon a liberal scale and somewhat elevated standard have existed for many years. But it is a fact, that at the time Haverford School was started, the Society of Friends in this country was, in proportion to its condition in other respects, inferior in education and opportunities of advanced learning, to the cultivated and respectable portion of other sects. This deficiency was observed by many influential men; and they sought to enlarge the influence of their body, and thus promote the cause to which it is devoted, by establishing a collegiate Institution for young Friends.



Could they have chosen a more beautiful or a more salubrious spot? In the territory of Penn, and not far from his own city, their groves of *Academus* were now planted. Those men were the benefactors of their community. If the school, once fallen, had never again revived, they would still have accomplished much, in having sustained Haverford for twelve years, and there educated several hundred young men.

And who, from the first budding of the project, through the time of its putting forth in leaf, flower and fruit, even till a premature autumn had stripped it bare and threatened its very life; do we see, as a good husbandman, devoting all his energies to its care; watching, watering, pruning, tending it through sun, and wind, and rain? It was the former President of this Society, long our venerated and beloved Preceptor.

Not in vain did he hope,—to use his own humble language,—to have here spent twelve years in the service of Truth and Virtue. Denying himself many comforts, estranging his time from the pursuit of wealth or the enjoyment of leisure, every talent of his able and cultivated mind was exerted actively, patiently, anxiously, to advance the cause of education on this spot. We must ever regard his good influence as having been the most important element in the developement of our minds and the formation of our characters.

It is not from any want of respect or gratitude toward the other able and excellent men, one of whom is now no more, to whom, as students of Haverford, past and present, we all owe so much, that we thus dwell on the first president of the Loganian Society; but because, from his peculiar connection with it by interest and circumstance *he* was, and is, in our recollection, *identified* with Haverford.

It was on the 21st of 1st mo., 1834, that a number of the students of this School assembled, to form an association for mutual improvement in literature and science. Joseph Walton, Jr., John Collins and Bartholomew Wyatt Wistar, as committee, prepared a constitution.

The name of Haverford Loganian Society, it is presumed, was given in recollection of Logan, the intimate friend of William Penn.

Its objects were stated to be, improvement in composition and elocution, the investigation of various scientific and lite-

rary subjects, the formation of a museum and cabinet of natural history, and of a library.

The President was in all cases to be an officer of the Institution; the Vice-President to be chosen from the senior class each year; the Secretary from the Junior class. The other officers were a Treasurer, Curator, and Librarian; and standing committees on different departments of scientific observation were to be appointed.

It was thus designed to place the teachers and students on a footing of nearness and equality; making the Society a democratic institution in its nature. On its floor no *ipse dixit* was infallible; the learned professor of mathematics could there assert no problem without proof; and even the authority of our leader in Virgil or Medea could be disputed.

The connection of graduates and others leaving the school, was maintained by the establishment of an honorary membership, to which they became entitled.

On the 26th of 2d month, the Society was resolved into five committees; one on General Literature, one on Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, one on Botany and Mineralogy, and one on Zoology; each to furnish a report at least once in two months.

Provision was also made for the delivery of essays and recitations.

About two months later, the President reported that the Managers had granted to the Society, for a botanical garden, the piece of ground now occupied by the garden and greenhouse, and extending below them toward the farm-house lane. A gardener was soon obtained, and subscriptions were set on foot for furnishing plants and other materials. There were difficulties in the way of this horticulture; for we find on minute, three weeks later, Resolved, "That the Society finish the extermination of the daisies in our garden to-morrow afternoon at 20 minutes past 5."

Some commencement of a greenhouse must have been already made, as it is alluded to, although not distinctly stated. The cabinet of minerals and of dried plants, and the library, were also from time to time added to by the members

and their friends ; and barrels were sunk in the ground, under the direction of the Zoological Committee, for observations on the descent of the larvæ of the 17 year locust.

A plan for the erection of a greenhouse, at cost of six hundred dollars, was reported by the President, 8th month, 27th, 1834. It was to be 40 feet front on the south, a part to be occupied as a carpenter shop.

The officers elected for the next year were, Daniel B. Smith, President ; Clarkson Sheppard, Vice-President ; Jonathan Fell, Secretary ; John Hunn, Treasurer ; Francis T. King, Librarian ; Joseph Walton, Jr. Curator.

In the 11th month, a circular was referred to the committee on Meteorology, from the American Philosophical Society and Franklin Institute, conferring as to the best means of promoting the advancement of meteorology. It was useful in facilitating and encouraging regular and accurate observations upon that subject.

Two hundred and fifty species of plants were presented by David Thomas, of New York. The greenhouse was completed in the 12th month.

In their literary performances, great activity and punctuality now characterized the members. Essays, recitations, and debates, followed each other in lively order, and every one came up to the mark. In discussion, their united wisdom decided the classic studies to be useful ; the French Revolution a useless pestilence ; the future condition of the Indians, if moved west of the Mississippi, was prudently left undecided. There were no prophets among them then, for it was determined that unlimited immigration would be beneficial to this country ; but a very judicious veto was issued against capital punishment.

In 2d month, 1836, four prizes were awarded, after competition, for the best essays, by members. Burke's Works, in 3 vols., was the first, Aikin's British Poets the second.

The fruit, consisting of strawberries, raspberries, and cherries, belonging to the Society, was this summer so considerable as to require the special care of a committee. The duty of *assisting* them, however, in disposing of it, was cheerfully and effectually performed. The *first*-fruits, as strawberries,

oranges, &c., were usually given to the superintendent, or teachers, and their families.

A handsome collection of hyacinths and tulips was obtained for the garden, whose rich colours and fragrance are strongly impressed upon some of our memories.

The carpenter shop was at this time, as afterwards, a flourishing and highly useful institution.

In 12th month, 1836, a communication was read from Thomas P. Cope, Isaac Collins, and Bartholomew Wistar, of Philadelphia, from which it appeared that they had erected at their own expense and presented to the Loganian Society, the spacious and elegant arbour for grape-vines at the east end of the greenhouse, together with the vines with which it is stocked. The members of the Society, sensible of the liberality which prompted the expenditure, and of the confidence in them which was implied by the gift, thereupon pledged themselves, by resolution, to take every needful care of the same, and to appropriate the fruit to the general use of the students and of the family of the Institution. They reciprocated the wish, expressed by the donors, not only that no unwholesome grapes might ever be borne on the spacious bower, but that the nobler vine which had been planted by the public spirit and fostered by the wise liberality of the Haverford School Association, beneath whose ample shades they were now gathering the fruits of literature and science, might never disappoint its early promise; but might continue for ages to come to rejoice with its plenteous harvests the hearts of those to whom it might fall as an inheritance. It was therefore unanimously resolved, that the thanks of the Society be presented to Thomas P. Cope, Isaac Collins, and Bartholomew Wistar, for their liberal donation.

The arbour was placed under the especial charge of a committee.

Three prizes were again awarded for the best essays on the 1st of 3d month, 1837. The first, this time, was a handsome copy of the works of Dugald Stewart.

An address was read at the last meeting of that session, by Lindley Murray. He had been preceded, on similar occasions, by Clarkson Sheppard and Thomas F. Cock.

The practice of appointing members to read sometimes instead of original essays, a form of lecture, or compiled "information" upon chosen subjects, was adopted early in the next session, and proved useful. Greater care was secured in the composition of essays, by the appointment of a committee of criticism.

The garden and greenhouse were now under charge of twelve elected managers, and the carpenter shop under directors; which latter cultivated their financial talents by shaving the members unmercifully in sale of boards.

Sixth month, 21st, 1837, I find the greatest number of active members present which has occurred during the existence of the Society. It was fifty-eight. Its prosperity, and perhaps that of the School, which then numbered about seventy pupils, had been during this year at a maximum. Thoughts were entertained of building additions to the school-house for the admission of a larger number; extensive improvements were proposed and begun: everything was flourishing and promising. It is sad now to observe how all those hopes were frustrated.

Many of the old scholars will remember the interest of some of the debates at this time,—particularly of one on the immediate abolition of Slavery, and one on the comparative utility of Poetry and Philosophy; in which the eloquence and ability of our teachers, Daniel B. Smith, William Dennis and Samuel J. Gummere, were mingled with the equally ardent efforts of members of the senior and junior classes.

Fell, Fisher, Serrill, Pennock, Murray and Sharpless made the constellation which then shone brightest in our firmament.

At a special meeting held 9th mo., 8th, 1837, a report was offered on the propriety of the publication, by the Society, of a printed monthly paper. The plan embraced the appointment of six editors, four resident at Haverford, two in Philadelphia. The contributors were to be the active and honorary members of the Loganian Society. A committee was appointed to obtain subscriptions, and agents were selected from the members in Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Cincinnati, New Bedford, Providence and other places. The name of this monthly was to be the Literary Gymnasium.

What a beautiful project! With the President at its head,



and all the growing talent of the members, past, present, and future, to sustain it, this offspring of the press might have had a noble influence. The wisdom of age leading on the burning phalanx of youthful enterprise and genius in the warfare of truth against the world ! Oh how such an army of warriors, rangers and howitzers, is wanted in these sad and troublous times ! From the bottom of my heart I cannot but regret that it failed ; but fail it did. At the very first meeting of the next term, it was deemed proper that the publication of the paper be suspended.

From this time the golden age of the Society in literature began to lose its lustre. Natural History, however, flourished ; as we find from the donations of shells, birds' eggs, bugs, beetles and butterflies made to the museum. Rules were required to restrain the catching of moths and bugs on plants in the botanical garden,—so high was that enthusiasm.

In 1838 the Society and the School received handsome contributions from Nathan Dunn ; and it was from his offers that the suggestion of the building of a new and enlarged Greenhouse originated. A committee to obtain subscriptions for this purpose was soon after appointed, and the aid of the committee of Managers on the Lawn was solicited. With their help, the sum of between two and three thousand dollars was collected,—and the present conservatory was its result. The carpenter shop seen from the west end of the School-house was also erected by aid of the same funds. There is no doubt that these, and the garden, mostly kept in beautiful order, and rich in valuable plants, were highly important portions of the moral and intellectual economy of the School. They were a part of that enlarged and liberal plan for the education and development of *mind* and *heart* in young men, which raised Haverford so far above ordinary schools and even colleges ; and which it is hoped may in time generally supersede all narrower and less efficient schemes. It may be true that prosperity sometimes led to too fearless an expenditure of the means of the Association ; but it is no less certain, in our minds, than any plan which would needlessly cut away or crush these and similar aids to mental and moral cultivation in the students, would deprive Haverford of all its superiority, and reduce it to the level of other analogous institutions.



The Loganian Society itself is an instance of the advantage of leading young minds to self-culture, and of the interest they take in, and profit they reap from all that proceeds from themselves. A still stronger proof is found in the fact that even more ardent and constant efforts were made, and often with more success, to sustain those lesser societies, remembered by us as the Historical, the Franklin, the Rhetorical, the Penn Literary, &c., which originated and were confined entirely amongst the students themselves. It is the experience of all colleges, and indeed of all education, that self-culture is at last the highest culture.

At this time, when literary action in the Loganian was on the decline, the lesser societies were in full vigour. But the state of the larger body, and the final result in the others too, may in part be accounted for. In the first place a certain degree of restraint was caused by the presence of teachers, unless they actively *participated* in the proceedings; and the number of older members was now lessened. The admission of the youngest also, who took no part, diminished the enthusiasm of the rest.

But a spirit was now creeping in, which made inroads upon all enthusiasm, and paralysed every effort towards progress and perfection. It was a spirit of satire and sarcasm; which made us look constantly for matter of ridicule in all that was said, done or seen around us, at any place or time. Thus at odds every one with the rest, each was *afraid* to put forth his powers, and a deadly stagnation was the consequence. Essays were not written, recitations not prepared, debates indefinitely postponed, or for want of arguments left undecided. It was long before the evil was exorcised, even by the noble efforts of our President.

Let us, from the experience of those days, protest against that miserable spirit,—the bane of all virtue, intellect and progress. It is it that makes sceptics and infidels; that trains up idlers and drivellers; and that makes war against the very God of nature and of man, by refusing to honor what he has made of beautiful, of grand and sublime!

A paper, styled the Collegian, was conducted in 1838 in the Society. An excellent mode of written discussion or thesis

by two members appointed on given subjects was also brought into practice.

And a great interest was excited by an impeachment and mock trial of the directors of the carpenter shop. D. B. Smith was judge,—Nathan Hill, sheriff,—Barker Gummere, Benjamin Collins, Richard Lawrence and Justus Adams, jury. The directory was accused of high crimes and misdemeanors in their administration. The trial was opened by Charles W. Fisher, prosecuting attorney for the society, and William D. Arnold, counsel for the defendants. The examination of witnesses occupied two sittings; on the third the jury retired, and brought in a verdict of guilty on five counts of neglect, partiality and extortion. The sentence is not recorded,—but it is believed that they survived it.

At the end of this session an address was delivered by Charles Taber of the senior class: and in the fall of the same year a valedictory by another of that class, then graduated. An orator was after this appointed for the close of each session.

The Collegian was kept up with spirit during the next term; and three prizes were awarded for essays, one of which was a poem by Richard H. Lawrence of New York, since deceased.

In 2d mo., 1841, we again find the directors subjected to impeachment, trial, and severe reprimand. Their “little brief authority” seems to have been dangerous.

In 11th mo., 1843, however, they retaliated by impeaching the Society for damages to the shop, and were sustained.

A new paper, called the “Weekly Budget” was started in 1844.

I may be excused from dwelling in detail on the succeeding portions of the Society’s history,—on account of its similarity to what has gone before, and the absence of personal acquaintance with the events. A great degree of literary activity appears to have existed in ’41 and ’42. After this, tempered by an occasional burst of imagination, the practical business-like work of the Society seemed to predominate in interest with the members. The garden, the greenhouse, the carpenter shop and lathe, the swing, and the committees on Natural History occupied most of its time. Science and utility bore rule, and poetry and philosophy were at a discount. This in fact is the prevailing spirit of the present age.

At last, in 1845, the crisis came: the social atmosphere was overclouded,—and for want of sustaining warmth the vine so long carefully tended at Haverford died down to the root: Haverford School was closed.

But it was the scene of too many early associations,—too much affectionate remembrance, and gratitude only deepened as time matured their appreciation of its benefits, ever to be forgotten by its pupils. It formed a tie among them. Many had there formed life-long friendships,—and as they met, in city or in country, it was the theme of their conversation and regret.

They determined to celebrate its memory, as a thing gone by,—by a revival of some of its pleasures in a gathering of the old scholars at the school-house. In the winter of 1846 this scheme was carried out.

About ninety members of the Loganian Society assembled, and after a hearty game of foot-ball on the lawn, dined in the old dining-room together,—and then held a meeting of the Society, in this room.

A beautiful address was delivered by Isaac S. Serrill of Philadelphia.

When the delightful thrill of old recollections and of greetings amongst those who had not here met, some of them, for many years, had in part subsided, the occasion had a sort of funereal sadness. We none of us could then have much hope of ever seeing the school revived: it was a picture in the history of our past alone. Yet it *was not* dead, but slept. It had ensured for itself the elements of vitality, in the love and estimation of its scholars and graduates; and that, as it were, funeral occasion was the date of a commencing return to existence. Phoenix-like it rose from its own ashes, and it was the Loganian Society that blew into it the first trembling breath of life!

At that meeting, 12th mo., 29th, 1846, resolutions were proposed by Lindley Fisher, and adopted, expressing the sincere regret of the former pupils for the continued suspension of the school; and pledging their best individual efforts for the advancement of the interests of the Institution,—to be carried out particularly in obtaining funds by subscription towards its renewal. The sum of five thousand dollars was

proposed as a limit, and a committee was appointed to receive and transmit all collected to the managers of the association.

This committee, of which Daniel B. Smith had been appointed chairman, called a meeting of the Society in Philadelphia, a few weeks after. The president being now in the chair, a new impulse was given to the project, which boldly aimed at doubling the sum proposed ; making it ten thousand dollars to be raised by the old scholars. An energetic organization was at once effected,—and, to the surprise of many, their efforts were successful. Forty thousand dollars had already been obtained by the exertions of the managers,—and the school was saved ! There is little doubt that without this timely and important aid from its former pupils, the association must have failed in re-establishing their fund, perhaps for many years ; and in the mean time the house and grounds might have been sacrificed. Nothing could speak more loudly in praise of the school as it had been, than this devoted attachment to its interests shown by its students.

The Loganian Society was reorganized 5th mo., 29th, 1848. But its proceedings since that date, however interesting, are too recent to be a fair subject for this history. May it never again suffer such a disastrous eclipse ! May it grow and prosper, till we shall all become but, in this world, shadows of the past, whose very graves know us no more ! With you, its present members, rests much responsibility as to its fate. Labor, then, manfully, that the inheritance may pass to others, still farther enriched by your cultivation.

My task as chronicler, however imperfectly, is now done. But I am unwilling yet to leave the train of thoughts which is forced upon my mind at this time, in memory of those with whom I once associated here.

Ghost-like the beings and events of other days come up before me and I cannot but *speak* to them. They are answered by the contrast of things now present in our outer and inner world.

O prime of life ! thy fairy hour hath fled !  
 Gone, with the dews that decked the mead at morn !  
 We gathered flowers with thee, but they are dead,—  
 The stems that bore them, withered, lie forlorn.  
 We wander in the fields, but find no more,—  
 We miss their fragrance in the opening spring ;  
 We list for music, where the winds once bore  
 Eden-like strains,—those birds no longer sing !



Yet myriad flowers still carpet the fair earth,  
 And thousand songsters charm the summer air ;  
 Why o'er *our hearts* will fall such woful dearth ?  
 What blights all beauty, fragrance, music, there ?

It is the cloud, oh man ! of thine eclipse ;  
 It is the shadow of thy mortal woe ;  
 Youth offers Hope's sweet chalice to our lips,  
 But, ere Youth flees, Truth bids that hope forego !

We knew not then, though taught, how Sin could reign ;  
 Could blind the eye of Day, and un-star Night ;  
 Could poison pleasure, lend new darts to pain,  
 And forestall Death, ere Death had claimed his right,

We know it now,—nay more, the spell hath wrought  
 In us,—and therefore hath our sky grown dull ;  
 And therefore have our day-dreams come to naught,  
 And naught, as once it seemed, seems beautiful !

Yet fear we not,—no, Heaven forbid that fear,  
 That life's young glory was a dream alone ;  
 He who hath seen the sun shine strong and clear,  
 Shall he despair, though storms now gird its zone ?

We have a "more sure word of prophecy ;"  
 We mark the day-beam through the opening heaven ;  
 From shining mountain-tops deep waters fly,—  
 The rainbow stands,—our certain promise given !

It is as one of the former students of Haverford, the ex-members of the Loganian Society, that I am among you : and I am thus thrown into reflection on their history since leaving the Institution. Many of them are scattered far and wide ; some are no more. Upon this theme, I may be allowed a few moments yet to moralize.

We look back upon our dwelling at Haverford, as upon a kind of Happy valley,—more wisely planned indeed than that of Rasselas ; in which all that was pleasant, innocent and profitable was gathered for our use, while many of the evils of the world were removed or hidden, or only known by the glare of distant conflagrations, and the tidings of far off strife.

Yet the sphere of our life widens with our years ; feelings, affections and interests deepen, the light of enjoyment becomes more intense and vivid, the shadow of suffering deeper and more terrible. We can now more easily conceive the immortality of our nature, from the development of our capacities for happiness or despair.

We have known the trial, around us if not within us, of

those principles which we are here taught earnestly, as the words of immutable truth : and we have proved them by another and more painful rule, the experience of every other plan of life. Here is a sad, dark chapter in our recollections.

Ten years have not been idly spent, with closed eyes and ears and moveless feet, in a world like this, by some whose very nature is a foe to sleep. But why need the lesson be repeated which they have learned ? Did ever man gain by the experience of another ? Is there anything new under the sun ? Yet the message must be given.

We have seen tried infidelity, indifference, and the willing choice of evil. A fearful thing is the reckless unbelief of the ardent, even when sincere. Although assured that the world's pageant is all a mockery, they yet long to go near, and for themselves strip the mask from each angel-faced demon, the wand from each Circe, and the instrument of her music from every Siren that lures them toward destruction. They would see, hear, feel, all that can be seen, heard, felt by man ; did not Eve so, and Adam so,—and was it not thus they fell ?

Would that the voice of some of those might be heard, who from the very gates of ruin have come back, singed and scathed in spirit if not in body,—to tell of the terrible evils, the fearful lies which stroll like painted actors to and fro on the stage of this world : to cry aloud of the deep and bitter falsehood there is in all enjoyment, sought for its own sake, in the ways of evil : and that the only life which man can find to satisfy the craving of his soul, is that eternal life which is in the Truth and the love of God.

I repeat that these are the principles which we were taught upon this spot ; we have seen them tried and proved by every test ; and the more we learn of man, of nature, and of human life, the deeper must be our respect and gratitude toward those who here gave us, as students of Haverford, and members of the Loganian Society, the *only true philosophy*, of life, and death, and immortality !